in September 1994. Specific Projects to be taken up under this Agreement are yet to be finalised.

(d) Proposals for Joint Projects are under consideration with regard to mutual interest and feasibility.

Launch of PSLV-II

448. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the salient features of the launch of the PSLV-II;

(b) whether the launch took place as expected or it deviated from the expectation and if so, to what extent; and

(c) what would be the applied benefits of this satellite?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) and (b) The obective of PSLV D2 was to evaluate the vehicle systems in flight and inject 804 kg. IRS-P2 satellite into a polar sun-synchronous orbit. PSLV employs both solid and liquid propellant systems and sophisticated initial navigation systems. The 44m tall four stage PSLV has a take-off weight of 283 tonnes. The first stage solid motor is the third largest of its class in the world. The second and fourth liquid stages were flown for the first time in USLV. The third stage is an advanced solid motor employing composite motor case. PSLV uses a variety of complex systems and aerospace mechanisms. The performance of tht launch vehicle was as predicted and the satellite was injected into the desired orbit.

(c) The Indian Remote Sensing (IRS-P2) Sattllite, launched by the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-D2), is fully operational and the data from the satellite is used in conjunction with the data available from other Idian Remote Sensing Satellites. IRS-IA & IB. Specifically, IRS-P2 is providing continuity of date services to the user community and its data issued in many of the natural resources survey and management projects. Also, IRS-P2, along with IRS-IA & IB, has been providing data coverage of the country with a combintd repetitivity of 7-8 days and thus has enhanced the capability of monitoring dynamic changes.

Monitoring of IRS Satellite from Mauritus-based station

449. SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA:

DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) in what manner the Satellite Control station, located in Mauritius to regularly track ad monitor the Indian Remote Sensing Satellite is functioning;

(b) what is then amount of money we are spending on this Centre;

(c) the purpose of locating the Centre in Mauritius; and

(d) what is the extent of cooperation the Govtrnment of Mauritius is extending in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) The Satellite Telemetry, Tracking and Command station at Mauritius is providing very good support for the Indian Remote Sensing Satellites

(b) The budget allocation for the maintenance of the station in 1994-95 is Rs. 95 lakhs.

(c) Mauritius is geographically well suited for moitoring Indian Remote Sensing (IRS) satellites.